

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Japanese Publication No. 08-063418 to Kazumitsu in view of EP 0 837 407 to DeSimone et al. Applicants have cancelled Claims 4 and 9, without prejudice, thereby rendering this rejection moot with respect to these claims. However, with respect to Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10 and 11, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

One of the goals of the present invention is to reduce the traffic on a LAN of a CSMA/CD type having one or more servers and clients. To achieve this goal, one of the clients sends a transmission request to one of the servers and receives an object corresponding to the transmission request from the server, and stores the object in the client in which the object is data linked between the clients. If an object corresponding to a transmission request is already stored in a client, the client does not send the request to the server and instead simply uses the stored object itself.

The stated purpose of Kazumitsu is to shorten the wait time of an operator and communication traffic when a server of the operator request from a server through a client is not provided. Referring to Figure 1, one server SV1 and (n) clients CL1, CL2, ..., CLn are connected to a server/client type network system which utilize a CSMA/CD type LAN. The server SV1 sends broadcast data BC10 to a bus type communication cable CA at predetermined intervals of time to inform respective clients CL1, CL2, ..., CLn that services can be provided. A monitor process RCP for a resource utilization state or application

program PA1s stops sending the broadcast data BC10 from a broadcast data transmission process BCP1s unless a requested service can be provided within a proper time.

As described above, according to Kazumitsu, the broadcast data of the clients is transmitted from the server itself.

However, Kazumitsu does not describe that the server receives transmission requests from clients other than a client that has requested it to send an object corresponding to the request, and that a client stores and reuses objects corresponding to requests that are sent from other clients to the server.

According to DeSimone, referring Figure 1, on the Internet 106, in response to a request from a client terminal 101, 102, a frequently requested Web object can be retrieved from a cache 103 within the Internet Access Server Provider (IASP) 104, which connects the client terminal to the Internet. What is stored in the cache 103 may not be the most recent version of the object. Distinct from providing the web object itself, information about changes to the object is provided by an originating server 105 in response to the cache request that is asynchronous to a request from a client for the object. Such information about changes to an object includes the date and time when the object was last modified, the byte size of the modified object, and information on the type of content of the object. After receiving this information about changes to an object, the cache 103 may then request that a copy of the object be downloaded to it.

In general, a cache, such as the cache 103 above, stores the client's transmission requests and the corresponding objects and sends an object stored in the cache

to a client requesting the object. However, all clients send transmission requests to the cache in the same way as the prior art. Thus the problem to be solved by the present invention, that is to reduce the traffic on a LAN, cannot be accomplished by the cache.

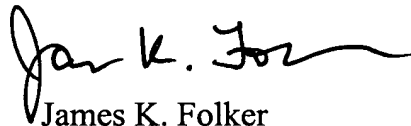
According to the present invention, each client comprises a reception means, a storage unit, a judgment means and object acquisition means as recited in amended independent Claim 1. Therefore any object corresponding to a transmission request can be stored in each of the range units in the clients, and if an object is stored in the storage unit in one of the clients, the client does not send a transmission request to the server, thereby reducing the traffic on the LAN. Similarly, amended independent Claims 6 and 11 define steps performed by each client. Accordingly, because the cited references alone or in combination fail to disclose or suggest all of the claimed features, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §103 rejection of independent Claims 1, 6 and 11, and associated dependent Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, and 13.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference

would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James K. Folker", written over a horizontal line.

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